

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /088 W

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R 071356Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8013

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 0177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJECT: RAYMOND EDDE'S LATEST STATEMENT OF POSITION ON PARTITION AND
CRISIS

1. IN STATEMENT RELEASED TO PRESS YESTERDAY MORNING AND
PRINTED IN MOST ARABIC AND FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPERS TODAY,
RAYMOND EDDE BACKS OFF FROM PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS
OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN "PARTITION PLOT" BUT STILL GETS IN
HIS LICKS BY CONCOCTING CONNECTION BETWEEN CONTINUATION OF
LEBANESE CRISIS AND U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

2. LEADING IN TO STATEMENT, "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" STATES THAT
EDDE IS LEAVING BEIRUT FRIDAY JANUARY 9 FOR PARIS,
FROM WHERE, ON BASIS OF HIS TALKS AND EVOLUTION OF SITUATION,
HE MAY GO TO NEW YORK (PREVIOUS PRESS REPORTS HAD TIED THIS
POSSIBILITY TO UNSC DEBATE ON PALESTINE).

3. EDDE'S STATEMENT SAYS IN PART: "SINCE BEGINNING OF
CRISIS, I HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE EVENTS HAVE NO RELATION TO
AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION OR ELECTORAL LAW OR TO DEMANDS
OF LEFT, BUT SEEK INSTEAD PARTITION OF LEBANON. PARTITION
PLAN IS NOT NEW. IT WAS DISCUSSED IN CORRESPONDENCE
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BETWEEN BEN GURION, MOSHE SHARETT, AND ELIAHOU SASSON IN

1954.... IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO TRANSFORM ENTIRE OIL REGION INTO A NUMBER OF CONFESSIONAL STATES THAT IT CAN THEN PLAY OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER.... FOR MY PART, I AM GOING TO FIGHT AGAINST PARTITION TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AND WILL TRY TO CONVINCE U.S. THAT IF IT WISHES TO PRESERVE ISRAEL IT DOES NOT HAVE TO SUPPRESS LEBANON TO DO THIS. IF IN AMERICA THEY REPLY TO ME THAT IT IS AN AFFAIR AMONG LEBANESE AND THAT LEBANESE MUST COME TO AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES, I WILL REPLY AS FOLLOWS: THIS IS NOT TRUE, BECAUSE IT IS ISRAEL WHICH, THROUGH ITS AGENTS IN LEBANON AND THANKS TO ITS INFLUENCE IN AMERICA, IS IN PROCESS OF SOWING DISSENSION BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS AND PUSHING THEM TO KILL EACH OTHER. THIS IS WHY AMERICA MUST MAKE ISRAEL UNDERSTAND ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT IT MUST CEASE ITS INTERFERENCE. HOWEVER, I THINK U.S. HAS NOW PLUNGED INTO PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND EACH SIDE NEEDS SUPPORT OF JEWS OF AMERICA TO BEAT THE OTHER. ISRAEL KNOWS THIS PERFECTLY. EACH PARTY HOPES TO SATISFY ISRAEL IN ORDER TO SATISFY JEWS OF AMERICA AS WELL AND BENEFIT FROM THEIR ELECTORAL SUPPORT. LEBANON IS TODAY THE VICTIM OF ISRAEL AND ITS FATE IS TIED TO SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. I DON'T THINK THIS SETTLEMENT WILL COME SOON VIA SECURITY COUNCIL OR GENEVA CONFERENCE. IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER YEAR FOR NEW PRESIDENT OF U.S. TO TAKE UP HIS FUNCTIONS. OF COURSE, LEBANESE DO NOT LIKE THESE PREDICTIONS, FOR THEY WANT SOMEONE TO TELL THEM CRISIS IS OVER AND COUNTRY IS RETURNING TO NORMAL. BUT MOST DIFFICULT THING IN LEBANON TODAY, THANKS TO POSITION OF CERTAIN PEOPLE, IS RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE. THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN INTO ISRAELI TRAP (WHICH IS ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT)... ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT BUT CANNOT FIND IT EASILY.... THOSE WHO HAVE DRAGGED COUNTRY INTO THIS SITUATION MUST EXPLAIN THEMSELVES. PERSONALLY, I MUST AGAIN LEAVE COUNTRY FOR SHORT PERIOD TO CONVINCE CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT, IF LEBANON COLLAPSES, IT WILL BE FIRST OF A SERIES OF COLLAPSES AFFECTING NOT ONLY, BUT OTHER REGIONS AS WELL."

4. COMMENT: WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS EARLIER UNCLASSIFIED

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ALLEGATIONS, EDDE HASHAD TO CHANGE HIS TUNE. LEBANESE USED TO HAVE PROVERB FOR USE WHEN THINGS WEREN'T GOING RIGHT: "IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THE ITALIANS." IT SEEMS THE PROVERB HAS BEEN AMERICANIZED. GODLEY

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